



Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council

222 North 32nd Street, Suite 401 Billings, Montana 59101 Phone (406) 252-2550 Fax (406) 254-6355
Website <http://www.mtwytlc.com> Email: belcourt@mtwytlc.com

SENATE TAXATION

EXHIBIT NO.

5

DATE

3.4.09

BILL NO.

SB456

March 2, 2009

Senator Jeff Essmann
Montana Senate
P.O. Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Dear Chairman Essmann and members of the Senate Tax Committee, Montana Legislature:

The Montana Wyoming Tribal Leader's Council is in strong support of SB 456 which would exempt Tribal Governments from property tax on tribally owned fee lands within the reservations.

This policy would strengthen the government-to-government relationships between Montana's tribal nations and the state of Montana.

This bill does the right thing in putting tribally owned property on equal footing with other governmentally owned lands including counties, cities, school districts, and many other groups from property tax.

We urge your support of this important policy bill for the 2009 Legislature.

Sincerely,

James Steele, Jr, Chairman
MT-WY Tribal Leaders Council

Cc: Senator Taylor Brown Senator Jerry Black
Senator Gary Branae Senator Ron Erickson
Senator Kelly Gebhardt Senator Kim Gillan
Senator Brady Hamlett Senator Christine Kaufmann
Senator Robert Story Senator Bruce Tutvedt